

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

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P R 250821Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1719

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, KS

SUBJECT: ANOTHER EM-9 TRIAL BEGINS IN SEOUL DISTRICT COURT

REF: SEOUL 0590

1. EIGHT MINOR POLITICAL FIGURES, SUPPORTERS OF KIM TAE-CHUNG OR MEMBERS OF THE DUP, WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED FOR VIOLATING EM-9 IN AUGUST OF 1976, SAW THEIR TRIAL BEGIN IN SEOUL DISTRICT COURT ON JANUARY 19, 1977. THE ACCUSED ARE KIM CHAE-WI, KIM CHA-MYONG, KWON NO-KAP, HAM YUN-SIK, CHOE TOK-KIL, CHOE SAN-IK, CHON U-CHIN, AND YI KYONG-SIK. SPECIFICALLY, THEY ARE CHARGED WITH SPREADING FALSE RUMORS WHICH RANGE FROM ALLEGING THAT PRESIDENT PAK'S HEALTH WAS POOR TO STARTING A WHISPERING CAMPAIGN THAT EM-9 WOULD BE LIFTED IN AUGUST 1976.

2. THE FIRST SESSION OF THE TRIAL SAW THE PROSECUTOR ASK THE DEFENDANTS IF THEY WERE GUILTY OF MOUTHING ONE OR ANOTHER STORY FROM A LIST OF FALSE RUMORS. THE SECOND SESSION OF THE TRIAL WHICH WAS HELD ON JANUARY 24, HOWEVER, SAW THE DEFENDANTS DEMANDING THE RIGHT TO MAKE BROAD STATEMENTS TO THE COURT RATHER THAN REPLY SPECIFICALLY TO THE
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PROSECUTOR'S QUESTIONS. THE DEFENDANTS SEEMED TO BE TRYING TO EMULATE THE FLAMBOYANT EXAMPLE OF KIM TAE-CHUNG DURING THE MYONGDONG TRIAL AND AT THE FIRST SESSION OF HIS HEARING ON THE ELECTION LAW VIOLATION CASE AT THE APPEALS COURT ON JANUARY 22 (REFTEL).

3. THE COURT, HOWEVER, WAS NOT IN THE MOOD TO PERMIT

GRANDILOQUENCE AND THE JUDGES ORDERED TWO DEFENDANTS WHO
WOULD NOT CONFINE THEMSELVES TO REPLYING TO THE PROSECUTOR'S
QUESTIONS TO BE REMOVED FROM THE COURT. DEFENSE ATTORNEYS
ASKED THAT THE SESSION BE SUSPENDED, AND
COURT SET NEXT SESSION FOR JANUARY 31.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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